

COMING HOME FROM SCHOOL

By Edmund Vance Cooke.

The buoyant boys, the gladsome girls are coming home from school!
My blood runs red with revelry, though years have made it cool.
The flit of little bodies and the bobbing mob of heads,
Canary yellows, raven blacks, thrush browns and robin reds!
The swirl of girlish garments and the letting loose of lungs,
The babble and the Babel, yet the fusion of the tongues,
O, Wisdom, thou'rt a droning dunce! O, Learning thou'rt a fool!
O, let me be a child again, and coming home from school.

O, school house, I remember well how once I stood in awe
Of your massive, passive countenance, your wide, omniverous maw.
An Ogre, you, with appetite for little girls and boys;
You swallowed us in silence and you spewed us out with noise.
Your stony stare glared at us as we hastened from or to you,
But we—we shrieked in ecstasy to rid us of your rule,
And it's oh, to be a child again and coming home from school.

As many hours as Jonah's days within the spacious fish
The tyrant school house held us, and as much against our wish,
And the vitals of our liberty had scarce begun to sprout
Till this new Promethean vulture, all relentless, tore them out.
Yet, even as a traveler across the scorching sands
Is all the more rejoiced because he comes to fertile lands,
So we leaped as from a desert to a garden, sweet and cool;
So it's oh, to be a child again and coming home from school!

Of course, I've not forgotten that the troubles of our youth
Were as vital in their seeming as our real ones are, in truth,
But, by our backward vision now, how fruitful was our day!
And the work we thought was irksome gave us appetite for play.
And shall our eyes be wiser, when our present day is past?
Tucked in our turf-trimmed coverlet, shall we behold, at last,
That Life was all a lessonhouse, which irked us by its rule,
But we are children once again and coming home from school.

Worth Catching.

"Anything worth catching in that lake?" asked the young man who had just arrived.

The hotel proprietor matched this question with another.

"See that girl in the red bathing suit?"

"Yes."

"They say her father owns half the island. She ought to be worth catching!"

"Were you much upset by the bank failure?" "Yes, I lost my balance."